

## Scansion Practice

### Basic Types of Metrical Feet

foot = one accented syllable, plus 1 or 2 unaccented syllables

˘ = unstressed syllable

/ = stressed syllable

Examples	Name of foot
to-day, the sun	iamb
dai-ly, went to	trochee
in-ter-vene, in the dark	anapest
mul-ti-ple, col-or of	dactyl
true-blue	spondee (rare)

# of feet	term	# of feet	term
1	monometer	7	heptameter
2	dimeter	8	octameter
3	trimeter		
4	tetrameter		
5	pentameter		
6	hexameter		

**Note that a poet can choose to vary a foot within a metric line, by dropping an unaccented syllable, substituting for a different foot, etc.**

How to find Scansion: 1) find most common foot

2) check # of feet in line

3) see where the pattern varies, and try to explain why

**Directions:**

- 1. Mark the accents and foot divisions in the following lines of poetry.**
- 2. Write the metrical foot beside it.**

1. With the cows in their stalls and the sheep in their fold.
2. And the stars never rise but I see the bright eyes of the beautiful Annabel Lee.
3. A loaf of bread, a jug of wine, and thou.
4. Every moment lightly shaken ran itself in golden sands.
5. Double, double, toil and trouble.
6. In Xanadu did Kubla Khan a stately pleasure dome decree.
7. Once upon a midnight dreary while I pondered weak and weary.
8. It looked extremely rocky for the Mudville nine that day.
9. Just for a handful of silver he left us.
10. T'was the night before Christmas and all through the house.